

## COMPARABILITY WITH BUREAU OF MINES STATISTICS

The Bureau of the Census statistics on primary products of the Clay, Ceramic, and Refractory Minerals Industries are, in general, comparable with product statistics for the same commodities published by the Bureau of Mines. The differences which occur result primarily from differences in data collection methods, coverage, and objectives sought. The most nearly comparable statistics from the two bureaus are shown in the table below. Major reasons for the differences in the product statistics are:

1. The Bureau of the Census collects information on production and shipments and calculates net shipments whereas the Bureau of Mines generally obtains figures on products sold or used. Both Census and Mines figures for fire clay and common clay and shale include production for use at the same establishment in manufacturing cement, clay products, and pottery products.
2. The Bureau of the Census excludes establishments whose value of products and reported costs were below \$500. The Bureau of Mines includes all reports obtained regardless of size. However, the contribution to products of such small operations is usually very small.
3. Differences exist in coverage in certain areas for both collecting agencies.
4. In some cases, a respondent may report his product as one type of clay to the Bureau of the Census and as another type of clay to the Bureau of Mines. This accounts for some of the differences between Census and Bureau of Mines figures for bentonite and fuller's earth.
5. Census figures are sometimes reported at a different level of preparation than the Bureau of Mines figures. In general, Census uses a uniform approach to crude and prepared material, requesting for crude the total material actually loaded at the mine site, and under prepared material, the product of all preparation methods such as drying and pulverizing.